

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL *NEWS*

December 2004

Internet Address: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/bd/

Message from the Chair:

You all have received invitations to the annual Taste of Braddock sponsored by Supervisor Bulova. It will take place on Thursday, December 9 from 5 to 7 at the Kings Park Library. I hope that you will make every effort to attend. Supervisor Bulova takes this opportunity to thank all of us for what we do; I think it is a wonderful opportunity to **thank her** for what she does for our communities. And so, in the spirit of the season, please join me in thanking Supervisor Bulova and her able staff members for their work throughout the year on behalf of the citizens of Braddock District.

The Braddock District Council enjoyed two extremely interesting and relevant presentations at the November 16 meeting. Our first speaker was Cal Wagner who is the County's liaison for community association activities. Mr. Wagner gave a presentation that provided Council members and guests with an abbreviated textbook on associations—their types, regulations of incorporation, and distinctions between and among mandatory and non-mandatory associations. I plan to use the information that he provided as a background document for the January 11, 2005 Community Association Workshop and Mr. Wagner has graciously agreed to attend the workshop to further explore these topics.

Our second presentation was the Community Spotlight featuring the Kings Park West Community Association. Bruce Wallachy introduced the topic by explaining the history behind the development of Kings Park and how the 1800 home community, built in sections over many years, encountered a situation in which 588 homes were part of a homeowners association that no one knew existed! Sparked by questions of potential liabilities, Bruce described how residents got involved in a dynamic and labor-intensive effort to establish a functioning homeowners association within the Kings Park community. Larry Velty, president of the Kings Park Community Association, spoke of the difficulties encountered as he and others worked to inform and involve the 588 residents in the new association. His presentation was a textbook of community activism. Using resources at hand, the community divided itself into committees that took on different tasks—budget, insurance, membership, legal issues, and outreach to other associations. The story was not only fascinating but also illuminating for what the Kings Park experience offers all of our associations in terms of lessons learned and experiences to share.

This session of the Council was anticipatory of the planned Community Association Workshop on January 11, 2005. Our December 14 Council meeting will be a planning session for the Workshop. We will explore format for the workshop, potential speakers and discussion leaders, selection of breakout topics, invitations, and outcomes. I'm hopeful that this workshop will help us establish a network among Board members of community associations that can serve to facilitate communication, mutual aid, and active associations.

I look forward to seeing you at the Taste of Braddock and again at the December 14 Braddock District Council.

Janyce Hedetniemi, Chair

Next Meeting:

Workshop: How To Run a Community Association

Braddock District Council
October 12, 2004 7:30 PM
Braddock District Meeting Hall
9002 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015 (703)-425-9300

Future Meeting Dates:

December 14	May 10
January 11	June 14
February 8	July-recess
March 8	August-recess
April 12	September 13

SUPERVISOR BULOVA'S CORNER

I'm drafting this month's Supervisor's Corner in between making calls to restaurants, requesting contributions for our annual Braddock District "Taste of Braddock". Hopefully you received your invitation (if not, you are definitely invited – Thursday, December 9th, 5 – 7 PM, in Braddock Hall adjacent to the Kings Park Library). The responses I get usually make my day! Our local eateries have come to anticipate my call. They know that this event will be attended by community leaders, volunteers and public servants who make our community the wonderful place it is to live, work, play, and raise our families. They are pleased to offer generous samples from their menus for you to enjoy.

This is the time of the year when I get to say thanks to my wonderful constituents who have worked to make 2004 such a great year.

In January and February community representatives surrounding the Burke Centre VRE station met with my office and county staff to help plan for the design and operation of a structured parking facility. The **VRE Parking Facility Task Force** will reconvene on January 13th to see preliminary designs. Thanks to these citizens, the final product will be a better and more compatible structure.

From February through June, over three hundred interested citizens participated in our **Community Dialog on Gangs and Revitalization**. Fifty of these participants, having attended at least four of the five sessions, qualified as "voting members" of the Dialog and passed a slate of recommendations to address these issues. Numerous programs and activities have resulted from this effort.

Earlier this year, a Citizen's Task Force worked with Braddock District Park Authority Representative, Winnie Shapiro, to **re-plan Ossian Hall Park** in Annandale. The new design calls for a more inviting and attractive community park, featuring a plaza with a playground and picnic area. I'm eyeing this area for a future Braddock Nights concerts-in-the-parks location. Stay tuned!

In October, I attended a first-time ever "site-warming" event, hosted by the Friends of the **Burke Centre Library** to build support (successfully!) for the passage of the library bond referendum, which allows us to move forward with our new library.

A Town Meeting on **Emergency Preparedness** on October 19th was extremely well attended. The next day, my office hosted a Town Meeting to kick off our new "Miniseries" **A Look Back at Braddock**. I'm looking forward to working with members of the community who are interested in capturing the history of our District – what was here before our neighborhoods.

Speaking of history, thanks to the Oak Hill community, and a willing developer, the County was successful in preserving the **Oak Hill Mansion** in Annandale through an innovative historic preservation easement. Over 300 people joined us to celebrate this achievement on October 23rd. Re-enactors, children's games and interpretive tours of the building and grounds made this event memorable.

And lastly, residents of the **Little River Glen** Senior Housing facility were cheered with the news that final hurdles to the construction of an **Assisted Living facility** had been overcome, allowing work to begin late this fall.

Thank you so much for making this such a terrific year.

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova

Braddock District School Board Member

Tessie Wilson

On Tuesday, November 16th, the School Board voted to move a step closer to purchasing a new office building. The building will consolidate our administrative staff, which are currently located in more than a dozen aging school buildings and leased properties spread throughout the county.

This is not a new concept. It has been discussed for more than fifteen years. But the timing appears to be right now. Commercial real estate is just now starting to rebound, and if the School Board is to move forward, now is the time.

The building will be purchased, if the Board of Supervisors approves, with Economic Development Bonds. The bonds will be repaid by the school system, and will be repaid with operating funds. The money saved from the consolidation will cover the cost of the payments. In addition, because of the consolidation, we will be able to cut approximately 40 staff positions over the phased in move. The positions will be cut through attrition, so no employees will lose their jobs.

I want to assure everyone that this purchase will **not** in any way affect the school system's Capital Improvement Plan, nor will it affect any of the schools in the que.

More information about the consolidation is available on the FCPS web site. That information includes pictures of the building, and a detailed cost analysis of the purchase, along with other information.

In my opinion, this is a good move for both the school system and the community. Services will be available to parents in one centralized location. Over the term of the purchase, the school system will generate savings which can be used for our most important function – educating our children.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

My best wishes to all of you for a healthy and happy holiday system.

Tessie Wilson

Braddock District School Board Member

To thank you for your contributions

to the community throughout the year

SUPERVISOR SHARON BULOVA

cordially invites you to our annual

HOLIDAY SEASON TASTE OF BRADDOCK

Thursday, December 9

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Braddock Meeting Hall

9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015

(call 703-425-9300 for directions)

We are accepting canned goods and new children's

books and toys for those less fortunate.

